

Current Claims Schedule

1-59. (Cancelled)

60. (Currently Amended) A method of electronically negotiating an END, sold by a seller to a buyer, ~~in which the buyer splits the END electronically into two or more parts and then negotiates those parts separately to one or more further buyers without the involvement of a trusted third party (TTP);~~ the method comprising:

providing said seller with seller tamper-resistant document carrier hardware, said seller tamper-resistant document carrier hardware having its own public-secret key pair, and wherein said secret key is not accessible to said seller, said seller tamper-resistant document carrier bearing said END and a signature calculated using said secret key;

providing said buyer with buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware, said buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware having its own public-secret key pair, and wherein said secret key is not accessible to said buyer;

transferring said END from said seller tamper-resistant document carrier hardware to said buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware;

splitting said END electronically in said buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware into two or more new ENDs each having a value such that the sum of the values of the new ENDs adds up to a value of said END;

digitally signing said splitting using said secret key of said buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware to generate a splitting signature; and

negotiating said new ENDs separately to one or more further buyers without the involvement of a trusted third party (TTP).

61. (Currently Amended) ~~A The method as claimed in claim 60, in which each part is subjected to the digital signature of the document carrier hardware of said buyer which effects the splitting, wherein said digitally signing of said splitting comprises subjecting each said new END to said secret key of said buyer tamper-resistant document carrier hardware.~~

1 62. (New) The method as claimed in claim 60 wherein said END and said new ENDS each have
2 an associated sequence number signed by a said secret key.

1 63. (New) The method as claimed in claim 62 wherein said seller and said buyer tamper-
2 resistant document carrier hardware each have a document carrier identifier signed by said secret
3 key.

1 64. (New) The method as claimed in claim 60 wherein said seller tamper-resistant document
2 carrier hardware bears an issuing signature, and wherein said transferring includes transferring
3 said issuing signature from said seller tamper-resistant document carrier hardware to said buyer
4 tamper-resistant document carrier hardware.

1 65. (New) The method as claimed in claim 64 further comprising deleting said issuing signature
2 after said transferring.

1 66. (New) Tamper-resistant document carrier hardware, said document carrier hardware having
2 its own public-secret key pair, and wherein said secret key is not accessible to the owner of said
3 tamper-resistant document carrier hardware, wherein said tamper-resistant document carrier
4 hardware is configured to: store an END protected by a signature calculated using said secret
5 key; split said END electronically into two or more new ENDS each having a value such that the
6 sum of the values of the new ENDS adds up to a value of said END; and negotiate said new
7 ENDS separately to one or more further buyers without the involvement of a trusted third party
8 (TTP).